Several of these bulk drugs are being produced from intermediate/penultimate stages such as Analgin, Dexamethasone, Pyrazinamide, Ethambutol, Chloroquine Phosphate, Amodiaquin etc. Details of production of 87 monitored bulk drugs are published in the Performance Budget of this Ministry which is laid on the Table of the House. Time and labour involved in collection and compilation of the other details asked for are not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Price control of medicines

2607. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express of 9th November, 1986 captioned "National Drug Authority on Cards";

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to expand the span of price decontrol medicines;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of price decontrol medicines have gone up from 100 per cent to 500 per cent since the inception of price control order;

(d) whether it is also a fact that overall profitability control of Drug companies proved to be a total failure; and

(e) if so, what other alternative steps are proposed to be taken to check the increase in prices of medicines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The entire scheme of price control on drugs is under examination of the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Transfer of pricing by drug companies

2608. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what system has been adopted at present to check the transfer of pricing by drug companies;

(b) names of the bulk drugs where average landed cost of import has been taken for fixation of formulation prices instead of actual landed cost of imports during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that drug companies are importing same drug from same source at different prices thus transferring money in apparently legal manner; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to check such activities which are against the interest of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Imports of bulk drugs and important intermediates are monitored at the ports. Approximate action is taken as and when any instance of transfer of pricing comes to the notice of the Government.

(b) In respect of imported bulk drugs, while fixing the prices of formulations, actual import price or the average imported price whichever is lower is taken into consideration. A large number of formulations are based on imported bulk drugs.

(c) and (d) Besides the source of import, the price of import is also dependent upon the quantity imported and the time of imports. Action is taken when glaring differences in import prices come to the notice of the Government.